



Catholic Schools Week 2014 at Home

Dear Parents and Families,

All this week, our school will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This week gives everyone involved in Catholic education the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution that our Catholic schools make to Irish life. During this week we encourage you, as parents and families, to take time to reflect on what it means to have your child as part of a Catholic school community, and to consider how you can support the work being done in your child's Catholic school. These are some ideas for you to try:

If your child is in one of the junior classes (Junior Infants/Primary 1 to Second Class/Primary 4), help them to make a 'Happy Catholic Schools Week' card for one of the teachers in their school. Help them to think about what they would like to thank that teacher for during this special week.

If your child is in a senior class (Third Class/Primary 5 to Sixth Class), find some time this week to ask them about what they think is the difference between attending a Catholic school and any other type of school. Some points for discussion might be the prayers that are said in Catholic schools, time devoted to religious education, preparing for the sacraments, supporting charities such as Trócaire and so on.

Find out what events are going on in your child's school this week to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Many schools will host a day for grandparents, for example. Others will have a special prayer service to which families are invited. Your child may also bring home some activities to show that their school community is celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Decide what you can do to get involved!

Did you attend a Catholic school? If so, share your best memories of Catholic education with your child.

For example, do you remember preparing for your First Holy Communion and Confirmation? Who were your teachers? What do you remember about the day itself? What do you think has changed about Catholic schools since you were young?

Catholic Schools Week begins officially on Sunday, 26 January. Perhaps your family can make a special effort to attend Mass on that day, when prayers will be offered for all those who are part of our Catholic school communities.